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THE CONDOR.

Bulletin of the

COOPER ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB OF CALIFORNIA.

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and as Official Organ of the Club.

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EDITORIAL

Signs Working as it is for the interests
of and advancement of Californian
the ornithology, which is at present
Times. prominently represented by the
Cooper Ornithological Club, THE CONDOR
trusts it will be pardoned for confining its editorial
reflections largely to various phases of
the Club's work, and again for perhaps sticking
too closely to its text in this direction. The fact
remains that the interests of a large Club membership
must be served at all times, and these are as varied
as they are important to the well-being of the organization.

It appears, if we interpret the signs correctly,
that there are scarcely any latent ornithological
forces in California, and that a very great percentage
of the active workers have been aroused and are now
engaged in a general movement. Perhaps never before
have so many individuals in the state been at work
toward a general consolidation of interests as at the
present time.

The greater the force at work, the greater the
general good which will result, and the closer these
forces are united, the more potent will be the work
accomplished. It would be hard to estimate in any
sense the material results of the work accomplished
by the Club within the nine years of its existence,
but be that as it may, we know that a substantial
organization has been perfected, that a large number
of formerly inactive ornithologists have been interested
in the work, and that the

Club while serving its purpose of concentrating the
efforts of our older workers, offers also the best
possible "training school" for the large number of
ornithologists who rise up each year. Thus the intent
and effects of the Club are progressive.

Without reviewing its early history and subsequent
progress, we may now believe that the Club has thrown
about itself the safe-guards necessary to its permanent
establishment. And yet it has reached only the beginning
of its usefulness! In this connection we may very
properly consider the recent action of the American
Ornithologists' Union with reference to its revision of
membership, since the matter presents several phases
of especial interest to Californians. The retention of
the limit of 50 Fellows seems altogether a wise re-
consideration of the question, since this number seems
ample to dictate the affairs of the Union. It is grati-
fying that of the five new Fellows elected, one
representative was given California.

The creation of the intermediate class known as
Members should satisfy those who have demanded the
separation of the true amateur ornithologists from
those who have but a nominal, "popular" interest in
the study. While Members have no voice in the affairs
of the Union, the creation of this class seems a step
nearer the solution of the vexed problem of mem-
bership. Of a possible 75, but 55 Members were
elected, leaving 20 vacancies to be filled at future
sessions. Of the 55 elected, the District of Columbia
was allotted 11, California came second with 9,
Massachusetts third with 8, New York 6, Pennsylvania
5, Connecticut 3, and thirteen other states and
territories one each. This action may be regarded as
a substantial endorsement of the activity amongst
Californian workers, and in the creation of this
condition the Club has been largely instrumental.

We have deemed it advisable to mention the
adoption of three editorial rules which are con-
sidered to contribute to uniformity and the better
make-up of this magazine. All three refer to the
names of animals or plants that may be published
herein.

1. Hereafter the possessive s will be omitted in
all cases where it is now used in common names of
animals and plants, unless a contributor expressly
requests the retention of such possessive. This is by
no means an innovation in THE CONDOR, as it was
introduced over a year ago, and several authors have
since voluntarily adopted this form. The reason why
Clarke's crow is best written *Clarke crow* has been
discussed elsewhere in this journal [CONDOR III, 2, p.
51], but suffice it to say here that the personal name
is given in the sense of a dedication, no particular
ownership being

intended or implied. Hence the personal name is best written in the form in which it usually stands in dedication, namely, without the possessive. THE CONDOR is taking no initiative in this matter as the form has been used for many years by the National Board of Geographic Names, by the Divisions of Forestry and Biological Survey of the U. S. Agricultural Department, and by independent writers. This form we believe is destined to become generally used.

2. A single i will be used in the genitive singular in scientific specific and subspecific names; e.g., *Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli*, not *nuttallii*. In other words the genitive will be formed by adding a single i to the *unchanged* name of the person in whose honor the species is named. It appears to us that the double i subserves so little to euphony in comparison with the labor and inconvenience of memorizing its inconsistencies, that the time has arrived when working ornithologists were shed of the nuisance. It is a well known fact that numberless cases occur where the same name has been written with a single i, and in a different combination with a double i. *Phalacroptilus nuttallii* appears to us as euphonic as *Zonotrichia l. n nuttalli*. As Dr. Allen has said, there is no rule by which one may memorize the occurrence of the two spellings, and the time and tried patience involved in editing manuscripts has led us to bring the subject before our contributors. We will not enter into any philological discussion of the question, but may remark that we believe the 'single-i-ists' have as good an argument to offer as the 'double-i-ists'. We emphasize *convenience* and *uniformity* which are really the most important matters. This likewise has been in use in THE CONDOR the past year.

3. Trivial or common names of animals and plants, occurring in the text will hereafter be printed in lower case, except of course where a capital letter is obviously necessary, as in personal or geographic qualifying words; e.g., *California towhee*, *Harris woodpecker*, but spurred towhee. Generic names that have become popularly accepted trivial names, as *junco*, will likewise begin with a small letter. This rule is rather widely followed now in publications, and the added neatness given to a page is marked. In closing we might add that in annotated bird lists the trivial name is written essentially in an independent subjective form, and hence bears capitals; e.g.

***Pipilo maculatus megalonyx*. Spurred Towhee.**

THE CONDOR publishes, as it believes, the first half-tone photograph yet to appear of the famed wingless cormorant. Thus "the world do move" and the camera has portrayed to

American ornithologists this strange bird which sports in the treacherous surf of the Galapagos.

We regret the delay in mailing the index to Volume III, which is unavoidable. Mr. Richard C. McGregor, who has been compiling the index, issue by issue during the past year, found himself located in the Orient at the time our last number was issued. This necessitated the delay consequent upon the time required for the mail to travel both ways. The index will appear with our March number.

The CONDOR wishes its readers a Happy New Year and greets them with a change of cover and new cover design, typifying the land of the setting sun and its lordly condor. The design is by Mr. Walter K. Fisher.



PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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RIDGWAY, ROBERT. The Birds of North and Middle America. Part I. Family Fringillidae—The Finches. (Bulletin of the U. S. N. M. No. 50, 1901.

ROBISON, WIRT and RICHMOND, C. W. An Annotated List of Birds Collected in the vicinity of La Guaira, Venezuela. (Proc. U. S. N. M., XXIV, pp. 163-178.)

American Ornithology, I, No. 12, Dec. 1901. II, No I, Jan. 1902.

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Bird-Lore, III, No. 6, Nov.-Dec. 1901.

Bird & Nature, X, Nos. 4, 5. Nov., Dec., 1901.

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